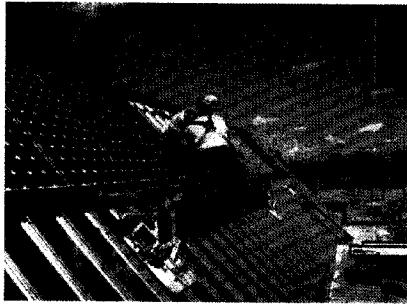


PROFILES OF MONTANA RENEWABLE ENERGY BUSINESSES: VOTE NO ON SB 226, PROTECT THESE MONTANA JOBS

Independent Power Systems, Bozeman

Independent Power Systems (IPS) was founded in 1996 in Bozeman by Tony Boniface. Today, the company employs 12 people in Bozeman and about 30 people at a second office in Boulder, Colorado. In 2010, IPS opened a third branch in Massachusetts. The company's areas of expertise include off-grid, grid-tied, and grid-tied backup solar photovoltaic systems; water pumping solar systems; wind towers; and mobile wind and solar systems. In addition to their 12 Montana employees, IPS subcontracts work to electrical contractors, structural engineers, mechanical engineers, architects, roofers, excavators, and builders.



IPS employees installing a solar system at the Billings MET Transfer Station.

Sundance Solar Systems, Red Lodge

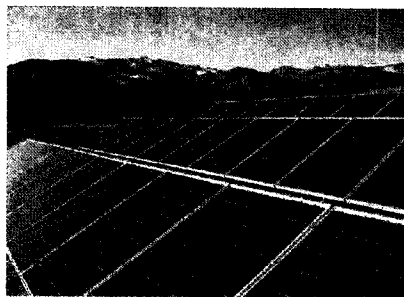


This solar system installed by Sundance Solar Systems at the Havre Airport is helping to offset the City of Havre's electricity bills.

Henry and Barbara Dykema of Red Lodge, Montana have been off-grid since 1992 and started Sundance Solar Systems in 1994. Over the past 15 years, they have installed more than 400,000 watts of photovoltaic and wind energy systems throughout south-central Montana, including several irrigation and stock water pumping systems. Sundance Solar Systems has one full time employee, and they subcontract work to 5-10 other workers.

Sunelco, Victor

Sunelco (the name is an acronym for "Sun Electric Company") was founded by Dan and Becky Brandborg in Darby, Montana in 1985, and was purchased by Tom and Nilda Bishop in 2002. The company designs, sells, installs, and integrates solar photovoltaic, micro-hydro, fuel cell and wind generation systems. Sunelco currently has a staff of 5 employees in its Victor, Montana office. Nearly 50 percent of Sunelco's business is out of state; they have completed installations in all 50 US states and several foreign countries.



Sunelco installed this residential solar photovoltaic system in Victor.

Winpower West, Billings

Winpower West has been in business in Billings for nearly 30 years, and has been owned by Ben Reed for most of that time. The company designs, sells, installs, and services renewable energy systems including solar photovoltaics, wind, and solar thermal. They also sell a wide range of generators and industrial tools. In addition to employing one full-time worker, Winpower West contracts with electricians, plumbers, excavators, and concrete contractors throughout Montana and Wyoming.



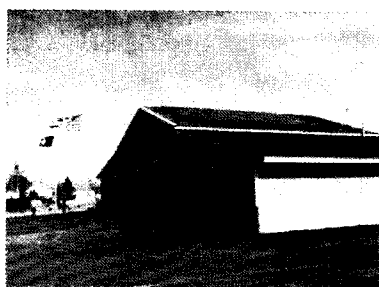
Solar Plexus, Missoula

Solar Plexus was started by Lee and Mary Tavenner in 1994; Rip Hamilton joined as a third owner of the company in 2000. Solar Plexus specializes in hydroelectric systems up to one megawatt in size and solar grid-tie and off-grid systems. They have installed more than 300 solar systems and 50 hydro systems, as well as a number of wind turbines. Solar Plexus has installed renewable energy systems in eight states. The three company owners work full-time and employ two other part-time employees, in addition to subcontracting work to electricians, engineers, and carpenters.



Intake for a micro-hydro system installed by Solar Plexus in south-central Montana.

Solar Montana, Helena



Solar system installed by Solar Montana at the Eastgate Fire Department in East Helena.

Solar Montana was started by Jackson Isbell in 2005. The company installs solar photovoltaic, solar thermal, and small wind systems. They have installed 30-40 renewable energy systems over the past five years, most of them in the Helena area. Solar Montana is growing steadily and hopes to hire one or two new installers in the near term. They currently contract with electricians, plumbers, excavators, and roofers.

Pine Ridge Products, Belt



Chinook Wind Turbine manufactured by Pine Ridge Products.

Jennifer Bryce started Pine Ridge Products in 1999 to assist customers in selecting small wind systems. Pine Ridge Products is a veteran owned, woman owned business. They have installed over 200 kW of small wind power turbines over the past 12 years. Their work in Micro Wind Distributive Power Generation was selected as a runner up in the 2008 ConocoPhillips Energy Prize. In 2010 Pine Ridge Products was awarded a Small Business Innovative Research (SBIR) contract to design a micro wind turbine for the Department of Defense and is currently negotiating a Phase II contract for the project.